Approval process for exporting animals and animal products to the United States

1. Make a request to the Administrator of APHIS.

2. Define the product to export to the United States. (It is important to specify the animal or animal product and the disease of concern or else the VS has to look at all animals in the region).

3. Define a region.

4. Identify one or more diseases of concern and provide supporting documentation pertaining to the 11 factors listed above.

5. If VS is satisfied that the information is complete, they put it on the INTERNET to make it available for comment.

6. Then VS verifies the status of the disease(s) and does some or all of the following:

    • Checks the surveillance data. May want to assess the reliability of the data
    • Conducts a risk assessment. A panel reviews the outcome and decides or makes a recommendation. The recommendation may evaluate the alterna tive conditions under which VS would accept and export to bring it down to an acceptable level of risk. It includes a set of options that reduce the risk to an acceptable level at a reasonable cost. The options may be:
        - To import without restriction
        - To import with restriction and specify if it is to quarantine, and for how long, or if it is to quarantine and test, or some other option. Some risk mitigation options may be done in the country of origin as opposed to the United States

7. VS says what it considers to be acceptable and drafts a rule with that decision.

8. The rule then goes through the comment and review process in the rulemaking process .